



September 1, 2017

First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Who We Are: FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.

What We Do: We are learning to live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life through:

- meaningful worship and study
- valuing and loving others through service
- embracing God's created diversity
- intentional connections to our community
- caring for one another through all of life

PRAYER PARTNERS

For the health needs of many of our church family:

Thayer Bradish, David Bussell, Denny Franklin, Dale Green, Pastor Lara and her children, Betty King, Emma Mantel, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Joyce Poland, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Betty Spiker, Lou Stickney, Alex Sutherland and Family, Ned Sweebe, Marilyn Walker, Bob Winchester and Judy Zeiss.

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Donna Clink (Kathy Burch's sister), Kim Francisco, Steven Gibson (E. Poindexter's nephew), Pat Hintz, Mary Pietenpol, Rick Raetz, Audrey Yost, and Molly Young (friend of Jilian Struble).

And those that grieve: The Ward Family (Kay's mother), The Family of Marcus Terwillegar (Winchesters)

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer, please contact the church office by phone: 835-6731 or by email: office@midlandfbc.com.



Rev. Lara Freeburg joined our pastoral staff, in December 2012, as the Pastor of Preaching and Teaching; in June 2015, Lara transitioned into the role of **Lead Pastor**. Lara has a passion for preaching and teaching God's word and for walking with people as they discover who God has created them to be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She has two children: Lola and Devin.

LEAD PASTOR

Do you remember the excitement that you felt Christmas Eve as a child? That almost palpable sense that something wonderful was happening around you; something just beyond where you could see. As Rally Day approaches (September 10), the formal start of our programming year, I feel like that excited little kid lying in bed, waiting to hear those jingling bells.

But, this excitement has not come without hard work. Instead of looking at the latest craze in church growth, our church put time and energy into looking again at “who we are” and what makes us unique. Our leadership knew that crazes come and go, but who God made First Baptist to be surpasses all of that. Upon this understanding, our congregation took the summer of 2016 to look again at our Guiding Principles, asking if these values were still at the core of who we are and what we do.

It was then with pride, in the Fall of 2016, that the long affirmed principles completed by the congregation with a promise that this wasn't the end of a process which our leadership believed would move us forward as a congregation. (For a copy of those Guiding Principles please contact the office: office@midlandfbc.com or 989-835-6731) That promise was kept when in June 2017 it was announced that our church would spend the summer months developing a new vision and mission statement for our congregation.

In last months newsletter, I shared our “purpose” or “who we are” statement- **FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.** “I love this statement. I think it meets us where we are, it tells who FBC has always been, and it invites us to grow!

Today, I would like to share with you our “What we do” statement that members of our congregation worked together on over this last month- **We are learning to live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life through: meaningful worship and study, valuing and loving others through service, embracing God's created diversity, intentional connections to our community, and caring for one another through all of life.** Again, I see the strength in these statements because they tell where this church has been. These are not things that are new for us, but things that we have always done. Yet, there are still ways we can continue to grow in each of these ways as a body.

So, what's next? First of all I am thrilled to say that, with the help of the memorial fund of Ethel Jean Carrol, First Baptist Church will get to share who we are: our stories, our passions, our purpose and how we live out that purpose with the WORLD through a professionally done video ,which will be shown on Rally Day in worship and released on our website September 11. This will give others a chance to get a feel for the renewed passion we feel for our church and perhaps even act as a catalyst for them to come and check us out!

Secondly, I am highly anticipating the commissioning of a team from our church which will go into the community this Fall and Winter to do an ethnographic study. An ethnographic study is the systematic study of peoples and cultures, designed to explore culture from the point of view of the subject of the study. (In our case, from the perspective of our neighbors). This means we are going into the community to ask what our neighbors and leaders and Midland think about what the needs, values, and trends are in our community. The goal of this study will be to take that data and to ask how what we have learned connects with our purpose and what we do statements (seen above), so that we can discern where God is calling us to connect more intentionally with the community of Midland.

I hope it is obvious why I am excited! I believe that we are already seeing the blessings of the work we have done. We have had 3 new members join the church in the last year, and one more going through the process to join! There is a growth in our Take Note program, where we are seeing more unchurched youth than the program has seen in a decade. We are seeing a rise in young adults actively participating in worship!

I have heard from visitors and members alike that there is energy in our church right now, a sense that something is coming. I look forward to seeing that “something” is! I hope you do too!

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

SAVE THE DATE!!!

ROAD RALLY and POTLOCK SEPTEMBER 23

The Road Rally is coming up soon! Here is what you will need to participate:

- A car, and a GPS or a map of Midland and surrounding areas
- A team of 2-4 people (of course at least one person should have a driver's license!)
- A mobile phone (a “smart” phone, or a cell phone plus a smart person holding an almanac)
- Paper, pens, pencil, and crayon AND A SENSE OF HUMOR

Starting location: FBC, first clue available mid-afternoon (exact time TBA)

Final destination: Plymouth Park Shelter H – potluck dinner at 5:30 for racers and anyone else who wants to come (Hint to racers: Bringing a potluck dish is one way to earn road rally points!)

After receiving the first clue at the church, teams will drive around Midland and surrounding areas, earning points by solving puzzles, finding locations and objects, and answering questions or completing tasks. Racers of all ages are encouraged to participate.

RSVP: 989-839-5943

~Kerry & Brendon Smith

GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH

EVERYONE A MINISTER --- God has given each member of the body of Christ, a gift and calling so that we can build up the body and partner with Him in fulfilling His mission to the world. There are many kinds of ministry, all are important.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

MESSAGE ENGAGEMENT

Facilitated by Rev. Karen Walker-Freeburg ~ Chapel ~

Ever wish you had the opportunity to discuss and wrestle with the challenges brought up in the morning's message? This class is exactly what you have been waiting for! Engage the message by considering and listening to others consider questions like: "In what ways did this morning's message engage you personally as part of this body? In what areas do you feel led to explore more? What ideas or concepts opened the door to a discussion we need to or could have as a church? How can you engage the topics raised in your own study time?" Come enjoy the time to learn and grow together as we take a closer look at each Sunday's message and how we can engage it in our own lives.

MISSING THE POINT

Led by Victor Atiemo-Obeng, Mark Neil ~ Harmony Room ~

Come journey with us as we discuss a variety of topics where the church at large and perhaps we as individuals 'Miss the Point' of what church and being part of the body of Christ is all about. We will be using the book 'Adventures in Missing the Point' coauthored by Tony Campolo and Brian McLaren.

KNIT, PRAY, LOVE

Led by Elaine Parsons ~ Room 16, North Wing ~

Have you ever thought of knitting as a spiritual art? Have you always wanted to learn how to knit, or improve your knitting skills? This class will provide opportunity for all of these, plus fellowship with others. You can participate in our Prayer Shawl Ministry, Knit for Kids or work on your own projects.

AMISH DINNER!

Friday, November 3, 2017 we will travel to Clare for the Fabulous Amish Dinner! Contact Jenn Hitchcock to reserve your spot! You may call 832-3822 to make your RSVP!

THANK YOU

Dear First Baptist Church: Thank you for awarding me the Judge Ray and Fiona Hart Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative when I found out that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I will be attending Saginaw Valley State University to study nursing. Your generous contribution has lightened my financial burden.

~Thanks again, Karina Moe

Dear Partners at First Baptist Midland: As we experienced the solar eclipse last week, we were strongly reminded of God's faithfulness. He created an orderly world where we get sun's light and heat every day, even when partially eclipsed. We so appreciate his provision of our needs in his created world, and also through our ministry partners like all of you. Thank You for your commitment to Bible translation through financial support of our ministry. It is a great encouragement to know you are behind us in this important work. Chaz is looking forward to spending this weekend with some of you at Lake Louise. He has many happy memories of that place!

~In Christ, Helga & Chaz Mortensen



**We'd like to send Warm Birthday Wishes
to all who have birthdays in September!**

October's Newsletter deadline is September 21 at Noon.

FBC Church Services and Functions may be Videotaped for Shut-in distribution and broadcast on MCTV.
If you are interested in viewing our services, they will be broadcast on Charter Cable MCTV digital box
Channel 191 on Wednesdays at 5:30PM and on Thursdays at 2:00PM.

Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR - 2017

Regular Schedule

<u>Regular Schedule</u>		ABIDING SCRIPTURES SEPTEMBER — JOSHUA 2:1-21
Sundays	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month Sunday School - Begins September 17
Mondays	10-11:30AM 4-5:00PM 6:30 PM	Staff Meeting (2 nd Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 11AM) Missions Team Meeting - Harmony Room - September 11 Team Network Meeting - Media Rm - September 11 - <u>All church is invited!</u>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
Wednesdays	6-7:00PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15-8:30PM	Chancel Bells Practice - Begins September 6 Property Management Meeting - Media Room - September 6 Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Rm - September 12 Chancel Choir Practice - Begins September 6
Thursdays	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - September 21
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - September 9 (2 nd Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Sept 4	-	Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept 5	6:45 AM 7-9:00AM	Continental Breakfast Serving our Neighbors
Sept 10	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Rally Day Service Rally Day Picnic & Activities
Sept 11	3:50 PM	Take-Note Begins!
Sept 17	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service Sunday School Begins
Sept 21	-	October Newsletter Deadline
Sept 23	TBA	Road Rally and Potluck at Plymouth Park Pavilion "H" @ 5:30 PM



Ushers

Jim Hitt
Jo Clarke
Bob Clarke

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Oct 15 - Consecration Sunday
Oct 13-14 - Scrapbookers
Nov 3 - Amish Dinner

Church Greeters

3 Jenn & Dave Hitchcock
10 Rena Walker
17 Ben & Lacey Schultz
24 TBA

[CLICK HERE to Connect to Church Calendar](#)



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



STEPHEN'S MINISTRY

What is Stephen Ministry?

It is an extension of Pastoral Care. There are times when most of us feel a need for a friend to come along side and support us through difficult periods and the Pastor is not able to do that for every person, every time. That is where Stephen Ministry comes in. It is for those times when we would appreciate more than just the occasional visitor. Someone to meet with, talk through our struggles and pray with.

Here is a story from a Care Receiver at FBC:

"Earlier in my life, my wife past away quite suddenly. I was left with caring for two teenage daughters, working full time and taking care of all the bills and the house. If that sounds like a full load, it was.

After a short time I was approached by a Stephen Minister who asked if he could be a sounding board for someone who was going through a trying time.

He was a great listening board who made suggestions only when he was asked. It was great to have someone who I could go to when I was struggling with any of the issues I faced.

I was a person who needed a Stephen Minister. I found myself being someone who would like to do that for someone else."

We are beginning to reactivate Stephen Ministry here at FBC to increase our Congregational Care and better meet the needs of those around us. If you have questions about Stephen's Ministry, please contact Mark Neil or Judy Zeiss.

SHUT-INS

Have an hour free this month? Consider visiting one of our Shut-Ins!

(Another list will be printed in next month's Newsletter)

Joyce Phillips

40 Rosemary Court
Midland, MI 48640

Verda Rider

1400 Eastlawn
Midland, MI 48642

Mercedes Ross

350 Dick Street
Midland, MI 48642

Shirley Sevenser

4815 Russell St
Midland, MI 48640

Dorothy Trask

800 W Meadowbrook
Midland, MI 48640

Marilyn Walker

4015 Washington
Midland, MI 48642

Date: September 1, 2017

Newsletter for Friends and Members
First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland MI 48642-3772

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service

11:00AM Sunday School



First Baptist Church

915 E. Sugnet Rd.

Midland, MI 48642

Phone: (989) 835-6731

Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: www.midlandfbc.com

Communion served 1st Sunday of the Month

In the spirit of our compassionate Christ, we are a family of growing believers serving all of God's people in an ever-changing world!

If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please contact us to remove your name: 989-835-6731 or Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: <http://www.midlandfbc.com>

Lara Heise: Lead Pastor (Cell: 815-690-8476)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

FBC Church Services and Functions may be Videotaped for Shut-in distribution and broadcast on MCTV. If you are interested in viewing our services, they will be broadcast on Charter Cable MCTV digital box Channel 191 at 2:00 PM Thursdays, and on digital box Channel 191, at 7:30 PM, Wednesday evening. Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>